

The Baptist Record

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Christian care can help lift sad spirits during holidays

By Susan Simko & Mark Christie

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A flood of Christmas time depression overtook Jim Walter as he pressed the money into his son's hand. The 11-year-old hopped out of the car and walked across the crowded parking lot toward the shopping mall to buy a present for his father — alone.

"This is a sorry way to spend Christmas," Walter muttered. The month before, November 1983, his wife had committed suicide. She should have been there to take their son shopping. Instead, Walter sat awkwardly in his car while the boy braved the Christmas crowds by himself.

"I was missing my wife. I felt sad for my son," Walter said. "At 11 years of age he didn't know much about department stores or buying things."

The entire season was miserable for Walter and his son, Steve. Every Christmas decoration they pulled out of storage and every picture on the mantle reminded them of Walter's wife.

Walter's experience is not unusual, because the glitz of Christmas feeds depression, said Wynona Elder, associate professor of psychology and counseling at

Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Christmas is supposed to be a time when everyone is supposed to be happy," she said. Even the songs demand it, proclaiming, "Tis the Season to be Jolly."

"We feel obligated to be happy and then we feel guilty if we aren't," Elder said. "And guilt spirals downward into depression."

Depression especially strikes single people and people who have lost spouses, Southwestern professor of psychology of religion and counseling Pat Clendinning said.

"They don't have the same natural roots as a married person," Clendinning said. "They don't have the children. They don't have the mate. Christmas morning comes and they are all alone."

Theodore Dowell, director of the Walsh Marriage and Family Counseling Center at Southwestern, said those who do have family around them also are prone to Christmas depression because the American family is in decay.

"We didn't have this depression around the holidays until we began to have the breakdown of the family," Dowell said. Many Christmas carols and traditions began before

World War II when the American family was still healthy, he said. The family deteriorated but Christmas remained the same.

"You have the same season. You have the same music. You have the same traditions, but what you no longer have is the reality of what so many of these things once symbolized. We continue the traditions but there is an emptiness," Dowell said.

"Giving things one time a year can't be a substitute for giving of yourself the other 364 days a year," he said.

That lack of self-giving makes it painful and depressing for families to follow the mandate of tradition and gather at Christmas, Dowell said.

"To be together or contemplating being with people who have hurt you, that will make you sad," he said.

This depression can be overcome by taking the focus off the painful memories and placing it on making positive changes in the present — especially for Christians, Dowell said.

Christians should examine their immediate families, pinpoint and abolish problems carried over

from their families, Dowell said.

"To look back and lay blame doesn't change anything," he said. "You've got to break the cycle."

Elder said Christians also can fight depression by refusing to give into the secular commercialism and unrealistic demands for bliss.

"We have made Christmas into the kind of holiday where we spend too much money. We're expected to kind of buy happiness," she said. "What we need to do as Christians is to put the real meaning of the holiday back and focus not on spending money, but on worshipping the Lord. That's not easy to do, because (spending money) is so much a part of our culture."

One way to serve God and fight depression at the same time is to meet others' needs, Elder said.

"Depressed people are likely to withdraw from others," Elder said. "Withdrawal is a real danger. That gives place for all the symptoms of depression to take over. So, they should be involved as much as possible with other people during that time."

Elder said every Christian — depressed or not — should look

for and reach out to people who might be alone or depressed during the holidays.

"That's a kind of two-fold response, on the part of the person who is depressed not to allow themselves to withdraw, and on the part of those of us who are to be expressing love and warmth and fellowship to be on the lookout," she said.

Walter and his son overcame the Christmas grief of his wife's suicide with help from their church, First Church in Nashville.

"That church knit together a safety net for both of us that carried us through those days," said Walter, who is now associate professor of adult education at Southwestern.

One December morning, a group of friends dropped in to clean his house. Steve's Sunday School teacher not only visited with him, but encouraged Walter as well. The singles department welcomed Walter immediately as part of their group.

"I got back on my feet emotionally through the prayers of many people," he said.

Simko and Christie write for Southwestern Seminary.

Christmas pageant lights up Mississippi cotton patch

HICKORY FLAT, Miss. (BP) — Recent years have seen a surge in the number and size of Christmas pageants and musicals in Southern Baptist churches.

Some congregations spend thousands and thousands of dollars on stage settings, professional lighting, choirs, and sound. The larger pageants often run several nights, drawing huge crowds. A few churches even sell tickets. Others issue free tickets so visitors will be assured of seating.

One of the most unusual programs in America is staged in an open, 20-acre cotton field, nine miles from the nearest town. It dates back to the early 1950s and is produced and financed by two families, one Baptist, the other Methodist.

Called "Christmas in the Cotton Patch," it has attracted viewers from all 50 states. Yet there is no paid advertising, no tickets, no expensive settings.

"Cotton Patch" began with a single, five-foot star made out of scrap lumber, decorated with colored lights and put together by country storekeeper Fred McGaughy, a Methodist layman. Fred hoisted the star over the branches of a big beech tree near his store.

About 1958, on a shopping trip to

nearby Memphis, Fred's daughter, Jan, age 7, was mesmerized by the lights in the big stores. "Can't you do better than one star?" she asked her daddy.

As soon as Fred got home, he built a simple nativity scene of a plywood camel and three Wise Men made from rough 2x4s and coat hangers. He set it up in a cotton field across from his store and illuminated it at night.

Word spread by word of mouth, and Fred could tell by the number of cars suddenly braking to a stop when they saw a nativity scene in a cotton patch that he had struck on a unique method to tell the Christmas story.

In 1959 he added still more biblical sets, again using props and costumes made from the simplest materials.

It was then he asked his neighbors, Ewart Autry, now deceased, and his wife, Lola, if they would write, narrate and record a program which, using an outdoor sound system, could be heard for miles around.

The Autrys, who moved to the area in 1941 to serve seven, scattered, struggling Southern Baptist churches, loved the gently rolling terrain of northern Mississippi. At

the time, none of their seven churches were on paved roads. The Autrys also enjoyed the nearby Holly Springs National Forest.

Seeing this as a unique Christian witness for a rural setting, they wrote and recorded a 30-minute program, complete with background music.

And so it has continued each year since. Now, three generations of the Autry and McGaughy families, including children, grandchildren, and their spouses, donate their time to stage the pageant.

Although Ewart is now deceased, his widow, Lola, and her extended family continue to write and narrate the drama. And Fred keeps adding new sets, so that now the panorama includes about 20 scenes tracing the life of Jesus from his birth to his ascension.

There are no actors — only sound and illuminated sets. But when seen from a distance, lighted by giant flood lights made from 50-pound lard stands, it reminds you of how the Judean hills might have looked on the first Christmas.

"Christmas in the Cotton Patch" is on state road 5, about nine miles north of Hickory Flat. The 30-minute program begins at 8 p.m. nightly, Dec. 16-27.



Lola Autry (left) and Fred McGaughy, originators of "Christmas in the Cotton Patch," discuss the 1992 production at Abel's Country Store, across the road from the pageant site five miles north of Hickory Flat.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Missions work will continue

The world mission effort of Southern Baptists has been one of the most successful global mission endeavors in history. Even in disagreement, we must keep intact the goals and dreams envisioned through the years. Thousands of churches have been planted, millions of new believers are singing a new song, and our sons and daughters are now serving in 126 nations. Since 1845 it could well be written:

"Prophets have proclaimed it,
Martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory,
Heroes for it died."

Hundreds of graves dot the landscape across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and Asia, testifying of a love for God that demanded obedience. One from my own family lies in a tiny grave in the Presbyterian compound in South Korea.

I've known so many others who fought floods and fire, braved climes of tropical heat or bone-chilling cold, to proclaim to every tongue and nation that "Jesus Saves." It has gone on in unbroken line.

"Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them," and since then churches have sought to obey. We cannot, we must not fail. God will hold us accountable in that day. Our mission program is first class and has been the envy of most missionary-sending agencies.

The decision made by former FMB president, Keith Parks, to accept the directorship of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's foreign mission effort expresses his interest in seeing the unbroken line continue. For 13 years Parks served well as president. He knows missions and mission strategy as do few people. Add to this, service as missionary in Indonesia, as area secretary for Southeast Asia, plus an unsurpassed love and concern for world missions. He said he would do nothing to tear down that which he had spent a lifetime building.

I could wish there had been a less hostile group of trustees in his latter term. I wish he had not resigned and I wish he had not gone to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Parks ranks with the top mission strategists of the world. This move will not go unnoticed in national and international mission circles. He gives an immediate credence to the fledgling CBF mission effort that may be unwarranted. The timing of this move plus the CBF's Global Mission Offering will not favor the Lottie Moon Offering nor the effort of our Foreign Mission

Board. The entire \$84 million Lottie Moon goal is desperately needed for our mission program and we could do with less confusion.

Parks would agree with many who proclaim that our mission program is more important than personalities, tradition, or the perpetuation of a system. He (and CBF) loves missions; the FMB and Don Kammerdiener love missions. Southern Baptists love missions and by some means are determined to support it. Confusion will not favor either group in accomplishing this task.

Hopefully the WMU will continue

to see its role as providing missionary education, promotion, and outreach to all Southern Baptists. This has sparked Baptists to our greatest mission effort. The promotion in our churches of two world mission offerings simultaneously will be difficult and confusing.

Things may be different in the future but right now the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Offering are the best vehicles we have in carrying out the Great Commission. Is there a way to minimize confusion among our people?

Missions await Christmas "bottom line"

By Susan Doyle

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle action figures. Men's neckwear. Nylon warm-up suits. Movies.

These are four of the items Americans raced to purchase last Christmas.

Retailers say it is too early to know what "hot" items will grab the attention and money of shoppers this Christmas. But if their projections are accurate, millions of gift recipients will be smiling on Christmas morning as will retailers who expect to increase their sales 6% above last Christmas, according to reports in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Another group of gift recipients can't be so certain about Christmas "gifts" or the bottom line. They aren't asking for luxurious items or those some would consider "frills." They're asking, instead, for gifts which are basic to their work—building materials, tires, computers, refrigerators.

This "wish list" is the one held by Southern Baptist foreign missionaries and Foreign Mission Board administrators. They, like retailers, are waiting to see if the bottom line will be up from last year.

Retailers, who depend on gift giving during the Christmas season for the bulk of their profits, are not unlike the Foreign Mission Board. The Foreign Mission Board depends heavily on gifts from Southern Baptists given through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The goal for this year's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$84 million.

The offering currently provides 46% of the board's annual budget while the Cooperative Program provides 38%. The Cooperative Program is the SBC's unified plan of giving.

The board's yearly budget is set based on the goal for the offering, not actual offering receipts. Should offering receipts fall short of the goal, the FMB budget has to be reduced—something that has been done every year for the past 10 years. The last year Southern Baptists reached the goal was 1981.

"Some Southern Baptists are surprised to learn that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is not money that is over and above the Foreign Mission Board budget," said Carl Johnson, FMB vice president and treasurer. "We depend on the offering to provide missionary support and items they need to work with."

The entire amount given through the offering is used in the overseas budget. None of the money is used for administrative or promotional costs at the Foreign Mission Board headquarters in Richmond, Va., Johnson said.

"Through the years, Southern Baptists have appointed missionaries at a faster rate than they have increased their giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering," he said. "It's a good news/bad news problem."

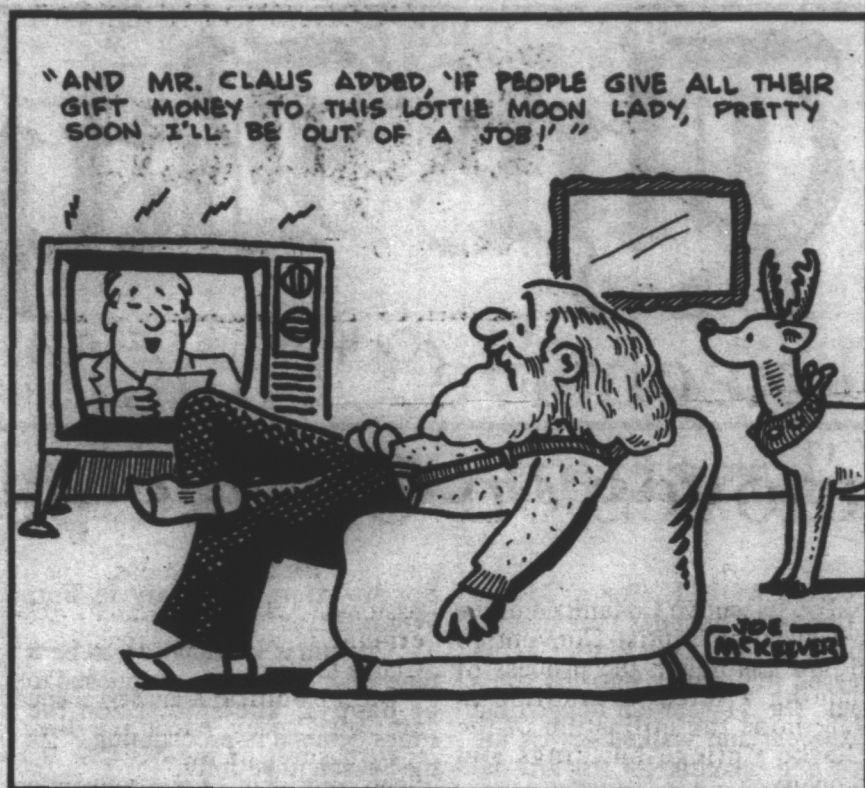
This year, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries have made plans to expand their ministries using every dollar of the \$84 million Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. They are looking to Southern Baptists for help.

These are examples of ways missionaries will use the 1992 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering money:

- to buy and distribute tracts and Bibles,
- to purchase gasoline for automobiles,
- to provide discipleship material to new Christians,
- to pay for language instruction,
- to rent a building for worship services,
- to roof a church,
- to buy Sunday School literature,
- to broadcast Christian radio programs,
- to buy a film projector,
- to provide a library for a seminary,
- to build a missionary residence.

"An \$84 million goal may sound like a lot of money," said Johnson. "However, it isn't much when you consider that if the goal is reached, Southern Baptists will have spent only 2.4 cents on each of the 3.5 billion non-Christian people of the world."

Doyle writes for *Woman's Missionary Union, SBC*.

Lottie Moon Offering
in Mississippi

1981	\$3,101,192
1982	\$3,329,414
1983	\$3,551,676
1984	\$3,900,075
1985	\$4,027,313
1986	\$4,128,247
1987	\$4,092,295
1988	\$4,723,519
1989	\$4,811,523
1990	\$4,796,435
1991	\$5,121,386

Source: Woman's Missionary Union, MBCB

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Executive Committee meets, moves on Clarke properties

By Tim Nicholas

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has begun the process of naming a select committee to determine the utilization of the Clarke College buildings and property.

Meeting in Jackson last week, the committee invited Mississippi Baptists to suggest potential members, they excluded themselves from being voting members, and they named five ex officio members.

A plan approved by the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November returned the former junior college property and buildings to the convention board from Mississippi College trustees who had managed the school for 10 years. The Newton school closed its doors this past spring because of declining enrollment, declining finances, and loss of accreditation.

In the plan, the Executive Committee was charged with naming a committee to determine how the property should be used.

The Executive Committee voted to invite suggestions from Mississippi Baptists for select committee membership. They decided that since the committee would be reporting to the Executive Committee first, members should not vote in both groups.

However, among ex officio members will be the chairman and vice chairman of the Executive Committee, Jim Futral and John G. Brock, respectively. Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is a former convention president and a former member of the Education Commission. Brock,

pastor of Ackerman Church, Ackerman, is a former trustee of Clarke College.

Other ex officio members named are Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the MBCB; P.J. Scott, president of the convention board and pastor of First Church, Olive Branch; and Frank Hammon, pastor of First Church, Newton, and chairman of the Education Commission.

Those making suggestions for select committee membership can write any Executive Committee officer: Jim Futral, 787 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, MS 39206; John G. Brock, P.O. Box 277, Ackerman, MS 39735; or Clarence Cooper Jr. (Executive Committee

secretary), Hwy 8 at 51, Grenada, MS 38901.

Suggestions for members must be postmarked by Jan. 4. The Executive Committee will meet in January to put the committee together.

Persons with suggestions for utilization of the property at Newton can send such to the office of Bill Causey at the convention board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. These suggestions will be forwarded to the select committee when it is formed.

In other business the Executive Committee approved that Jennings Orr, administrative assistant for business, be authorized "to take (See COMMITTEE on page 10)



The new officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee, from left, Jim Futral, John G. Brock, and Clarence Cooper Jr. Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, is chairman. Brock, pastor of Ackerman Church, Ackerman, is vice chairman. And Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada, is secretary. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

Parks' move to Fellowship called both "betrayal" and "miracle"

By Greg Warner

ATLANTA (ABP) — Reaction to the announcement Nov. 30 that Keith Parks, former president of the Foreign Mission Board, will lead the new missions program of the rival Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has been strong and mixed.

Parks' move was described as everything from a "betrayal" to a "miracle."

One of the most respected Southern Baptist leaders, Parks retired from the FMB Oct. 31 in a dispute with trustees over missions philosophy. He accepted the Fellowship's offer to direct its fledgling missions program despite objections from Southern Baptist leaders that the Fellowship will drain missions dollars from the

SBC.

The Fellowship is a two-year-old organization of Southern Baptists displeased with the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention and its agencies.

In making his announcement, Parks said the Fellowship will "supplement" and not compete with the work of the FMB's 3,900 missionaries.

Bill Hancock, immediate past chairman of FMB trustees, disagreed, saying Parks' decision "undermines" the support of FMB missionaries.

Although Parks said he only decided to take the job in recent days, Bill Hall, an FMB trustee from Danville, Ky., said trustees considered Parks' decision "a fore-

gone conclusion."

"Keith is a moderate," Hall said. "That's his crowd.... He fits in with the CBF. Keith cannot work with conservatives. The conservative trustees tried to work with him. He began an adversarial relationship years ago, in making his statements against (former SBC president) Charles Stanley and some of the other conservative leaders of the convention."

Daniel Hatfield, a missionary to Panama currently on furlough, said he feels "confused and betrayed." Like other missionaries, he worried Parks' move will hurt Southern Baptist funding of the FMB.

"It's acceptable for him to sever ties and go do something else," said Hatfield, who is teaching at

State, national leaders at summit affirm CP

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist denominational executives from state and national entities affirmed the Cooperative Program as the "finest method available for Baptists to work together to reach a needy world" in a high-level summit conference Dec. 2-3 in Nashville.

An outgrowth of six CP Issues Dialogues sponsored by the SBC Executive Committee and held throughout the nation during the past year, the summit conference drew 33 state convention executive directors to dialogue with officials from the Executive Committee and the SBC Stewardship Commission.

After double-digit growth in the 1970s and early 1980s, the Cooperative Program has leveled off during the past decade. For the past two years, at the SBC level, year-end CP gifts have totaled slightly less than the previous year.

No votes were asked for, nor taken, during the meeting but a consensus appeared in a mutual affirmation of the nearly 70 year old SBC channel for missions: the Cooperative Program.

"The forum... provided a fine opportunity for the state executive directors to engage in frank, open discussion with the president of the Executive Committee, Morris H. Chapman, his staff, Rudy Fagan of the Stewardship Commission and his staff, and David Hankins, chairman of the Executive Committee," Cecil Sims, president of the state executives' group, told Baptist Press following the meeting. Sims is executive director of the Northwest (Oregon-Washington) Baptist Convention.

The conference was held under background rules which allowed

Baptist Press to be present but with no attribution nor quotes allowed in the coverage.

"Dr. Chapman encouraged openness and listened intently as many facets of Cooperative Program relationships were expressed. The executive directors unanimously affirmed the CP as the finest method available for Baptists to work together to reach a needy world," Sims said.

"A quick commonality was established around our mutual affirmation of the CP and unwavering commitment to world missions," Chapman told Baptist Press.

A number of state executives, speaking with Baptist Press informally after the meeting, expressed hope that all the entities involved have now shared their opinions, have found a consensus, and are ready to work together to promote and affirm the Cooperative Program.

During the three sessions topics ranged from the different ways states and the SBC identify mission gifts; nomination of people not representative of state Baptist constituency for SBC boards; practice of "preferred items" in state budgets before CP division to SBC; wills and bequests shared by states and SBC; and others.

Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president of the Executive Committee and primary coordinator of the six dialogues and the summit meeting, said the purpose of the Nashville meeting was for "discovering and developing understandings and relationships that will enhance the future effectiveness of the Cooperative Program."

Hollinger is director, Baptist Press.

Youth Call

Where can you hear and see Louie Giglio, Lou Leventhal, Dennis Lee, and Sam Perry, all for \$5?

"Believe It" is the theme of the Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference, Dec. 28-29, at Mississippi College Coliseum in Clinton. The conference is sponsored by the Evangelism Department, MBCB. J. Garland McKee, director, and James Fancher, consultant. Rich Malone, Parkway Church, Jackson, is Youth Committee chairman.

Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "...But I think he has usurped the support upon which we (missionaries) are dependent."

Charles Hedrick, an FMB missionary on furlough from Nigeria, said Parks' decision might cause a morale problem among missionaries.

"I believe in the long run it's going to have us in competition, with two groups vying for money, for personnel," said Hedrick, who is living in Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Martha Wennerberg of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., recording secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, disagreed. She said Parks' intention — to focus Fellowship efforts on areas of the world where there is little or no Christian wit-

ness — "would not be in competition with the Foreign Mission Board."

John David Hopper, an FMB missionary in Europe for 26 years who now is supported by the Fellowship, said Parks' experience "will strengthen bonds of confidence between Southern Baptists and European Baptists."

"Dr. Parks is greatly appreciated and trusted by European Baptists as a man of unusual spiritual insight and unquestioned integrity," said Hopper, president of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, which was defunded by FMB trustees a year ago.

Ben Loring, pastor of a Texas (See PARKS on page 8)



Washboard witness

Members of the Beatin' Bangin' Band of First Church, Greenville, never expected to become an organized group when they put together a short routine for a Sunday School class party in 1988. But today, the group, consisting of eight members, ages 68-81, averages three appearances a month, including an AARP meeting in Louisiana and concerts at area schools and churches. Members of the group and their respective instruments are (left to right) Louise Magers, tambourine; Lorraine Fox, washboard; Virginia Keeling, tambourine; Hope Wells, harmonica and triangle; Pat Swinney, washboard; Sarah Carter, harmonica and spoons; Owen Keeling, drums; and Ruth Sanford, piano.

Conservatives voice caution over rumors of Virginia Baptist split

By Mark O'Keefe

HAMPTON, Va. (BP) — Voices of caution Dec. 1 challenged a movement to split Virginia's largest church denomination.

The 415 conservative Southern Baptists who attended a meeting at Liberty Church in Hampton, Va., appeared to agree the moderate-controlled Baptist General Association of Virginia no longer represents their views, especially on moral issues such as abortion and homosexuality.

But while some spoke passionately for a split from the 169-year-old association, others warned against rash decisions. The cautious note was in contrast to a Nov. 25 meeting in Norfolk where pastors said the formation of a new and separate association was all but a foregone conclusion.

The Hampton meeting was one of four regional gatherings held around the state Dec. 1 by conservatives, who interpret the Bible more literally than moderates. T.C. Pinckney, a lay leader from Alexandria, Va., said the tone of the meeting for Hampton Roads and the eastern shore was similar to what he and 100 others heard earlier in the day in Fredericksburg.

The purpose of the meetings was to gather information and express views. Surveys were distributed asking which of four paths to take:

— Immediately form a "new conservative state convention and withdraw" from the current association.

— Establish a "formal conservative Virginia fellowship which could develop into a separate state convention in the future."

— "Educate and organize to win back Virginia."

— "Give up the struggle."

Pinckney said Baptists from across the state will vote at a Jan. 28 meeting at Old Forest Road Church in Lynchburg.

While 11 of the 18 conservatives who spoke at the meeting called for a split, the remainder said they were hesitant. A reporter from the *Virginian-Pilot* and the *Ledger-Star* was allowed into the church on the condition no direct quotes be taken from the meeting. Several participants agreed to be interviewed afterward.

The meeting's organizer and moderator, Kelly Burris, pastor of Kempsville Church in Virginia Beach, said, "Some of the pastors are saying if we move out they fear they will be left behind because their churches wouldn't be willing to go with them. We need to be very sympathetic to that and we will be sympathetic."

O'Keefe is religion writer for the *VIRGINIAN-PILOT* and the *LEDGER-STAR*.

Annuity Board to confront Kmart about Waldenbooks porno policy

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention will seek a shareholder action to confront Kmart over the sale of pornographic materials through its Waldenbooks subsidiary.

Paul W. Powell, the board's president, said, "We could simply have sold our Kmart holdings, but selling stock has no influence on the company and has no effect on the company's profitability."

"Our trustees, in both the investment committee and as a full board, have twice discussed divestment of the stock," Powell continued, "but that would have had no effect whatever on the sale of the publications. If we are not successful in our efforts, then we will divest for the sole purpose of distancing ourselves from the corporate policy."

After the board's August trustee meeting, Powell wrote a letter to the chairman of Kmart's corporate board in which he said, "Our own independent investigation has caused us to conclude that Waldenbooks does, indeed, offer products we consider grossly offensive to prevailing community standards."

Kmart also has been a target of a national boycott by Donald Wildmon's American Family Association since March 1990. Its

Waldenbooks chain carries *Penthouse*, *Gallery*, *Genesis*, *Playboy*, and *Playgirl* magazines.

The Annuity Board has a policy that prohibits investments in what are informally referred to as "sin stocks." It states: "Investments are prohibited in the liquor, tobacco, gambling, and pornography industries or any company whose products, services, or activities are publicly recognized as being incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board. This

would also include any companies which fail to subscribe to the Statement of Principles, the seven-point code of affirmative action for companies with operations in South Africa."

"The Annuity Board makes a good faith effort to stay in compliance with this policy," Powell said. "Where divestment is necessary, we will carry out the divestment in a prudent manner."

Miller is senior vice president, Public Relations Department for the Annuity Board.

Parks, Jimmy Carter meet

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Former President Jimmy Carter "wants to be supportive of what we're doing," the new leader of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missions efforts told a Richmond newspaper Dec. 1.

R. Keith Parks told Ed Briggs, *Richmond Times-Dispatch* religion writer, that he accepted a lunch invitation from Carter Dec. 1, the day after Parks announced he will become CBF missions coordinator effective Feb. 1.

Parks retired Oct. 31 after 13 years as president of the Foreign Mission Board and 38 years of missions work with the agency.

Parks told Briggs: "He (Carter) said he wants to be supportive of what we are doing at CBF and would like us to find a way he can be of assistance in the mission programs."

The Carter Center in Atlanta is involved in 26 African countries, China, and the former Soviet Union in various humanitarian and social projects, Briggs reported.

Parks also was quoted as saying: "...he (Carter) said he had not been involved in Southern Baptist work as much as he should have.... The combination of his overseas work and his Baptist commitment and his feelings that he really didn't fit into the convention, the way it was going, caused him to make contact."

Dispute over the Cooperative Program divides longtime friends in Mississippi

By Don McGregor

JACKSON, Miss. (ABP) — The Cooperative Program, once the common bond of missions support for two Mississippi friends, has become an issue between the two.

Gene Triggs, a former major official with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was denied appointment to a key committee recently by his longtime friend and now convention president W.W. Walley because of Triggs' involvement with the state's chapter of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Triggs, vice president of Mississippi Chemical Corporation, the largest private business enterprise in the state, is moderator of the Fellowship chapter in the state.

Walley, a Waynesboro physician, had planned to name Triggs to the Committee on Committees for the state convention. But Walley either rescinded the appointment or reconsidered it, according to one's perspective.

Triggs declares that Walley asked him to serve and he agreed. Walley says the appointment was considered but never made.

Walley says that his reason for backing out on the appointment is because Triggs is an officer of the Fellowship in Mississippi. The Fellowship promotes diverting contributions from the Cooperative Program, the traditional funding channel for the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I am sold on the Cooperative Program," Walley said, "and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship competes for Cooperative Program funds."

"The Cooperative Program is messed up now, like a lot of other things, but I am sticking with it," Walley added.

He mentioned the close friendship that he and Triggs had shared for "years and years" and said he "hated to do it."

Triggs, on the other hand, said that the action had hurt and depressed him. He also mentioned the years of friendship, which had grown out of volunteer missions endeavors in which the two had served together. In years past, both Walley and Triggs served as trustees of the Foreign Mission Board; Triggs was chairman.

The dispute is one of the first times the SBC controversy, which has engulfed the national convention for 13 years, has surfaced on the state level in Mississippi.

"I will continue to be a Mississippi Baptist and a Southern Baptist," Triggs said. "I had no intention of creating a problem."

He noted the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship merely offers alternatives for mission opportunities.

"All the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is trying to do," he said, "is to make another avenue of missions available for those who are

unhappy with the way Cooperative Program funds are being used."

The Cooperative Program supports about 20 SBC agencies, most of which are controlled by fundamental-conservatives.

According to some sources, Walley said he received a great deal of opposition to his appointment of Triggs. But Walley told Associated Baptist Press he takes sole responsibility for his decision.

One letter-writer, Meridian attorney Greg Snowden, said Walley's action "smacks of exclusion and division, not love and cooperation."

"You must be very cautious as to the precedent you are setting," Snowden wrote. "If you really mean to exclude otherwise qualified persons from places of service merely because of their support for the CBF, then this frankly is no better than telling all of us that we are not wanted in the state convention."

Walley told ABP he would take the same approach to appointing fundamental-conservatives, who started their own organization in Mississippi recently. He said he would not appoint any member of the new fundamental-conservative organization to any position for which he has the responsibility for appointment.

McGregor is editor emeritus, Mississippi BAPTIST RECORD.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since the Nov. 5 issue of the *Baptist Record*: Lafayette: Taylor; Webster: FBC, Mathiston; and Yazoo: Tinsley.

Laurel physician makes time for spiritual priorities

Last in a series

Somehow, John McGraw finds a place for the important things in his crowded life: the orthopaedic surgery practice in Laurel, the lay preaching engagements, the international musical performances, the home church commitments, the family responsibilities, and—if all that weren't enough—the presidency of the nationwide Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship (BMDF).

McGraw, who attended the 1977 charter meeting of BMDF in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as a young medical student, is the first Mississippian to serve in the top office of the missions-oriented organization.

In addition, McGraw serves as the orthopaedic surgery consultant to the Foreign Mission Board; chairman of the Young Physicians Committee of the Southern Medical Association;

By William H. Perkins Jr.

and past president of the William Carey College Alumni Association.

He is also helping start a charity clinic in Laurel, and he will be both a member and attending physician for The Singing Churchmen during their upcoming tour of Russia.

McGraw's priorities include an unshakable faith in the importance of medical missions.

"People are much more recep-

tive to the gospel during a health crisis. Medical missions is medical evangelism," he said.

McGraw speaks from personal experience. He has been on mission trips to Nigeria, Dominica, Honduras (twice), Haiti (twice), and India. He brought two children from Dominica to the U.S. for corrective orthopaedic surgery.

McGraw cites the difficulty of being identified as an evangelistic Christian missionary in hostile parts of the world as one of the driving forces behind medical missions.

"If our purpose is to bring people to Christ, the preaching ministry is not the way to do it in many countries. Medical evangelism is no good for building U.S.-style churches, but it is effective for winning people to Christ," he explained.

Medical missions hasn't always been so high on his list of priorities, however.

that year as part of a Carey team," he said.

After graduating from Carey, McGraw taught school and coached football during his two-year wait to enter medical school. In the spring of 1984, he was accepted into University Medical Center in Jackson on a U.S. Air Force scholarship.

After medical school, his stint as a flight surgeon for the Strategic Air Command earned him top honors and allowed him to receive his pilot's license—including qualification to fly the military's huge KC-135 aerial refueling tankers.

His medical residency and military career also provided opportunities to start BMDF chapters in a number of locations around the country.

McGraw completed his military obligation and moved to Brookhaven in 1987 to begin a private practice in orthopaedics. He also practiced in Sikeston,

State leaders cite BREAKTHROUGH as factor in Chicago-area growth trend

By Frank Wm. White

CHICAGO (BP) — Illinois churches have reversed an 11-year decline in Sunday School enrollment, and participation in the Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH project will accelerate the new trend, according to Al Riddley, Sunday School director for the Illinois Baptist State Association.

More than 100 Illinois churches are participating in Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH. Many of those are among the 500 churches in the state which are now growing, Riddley said.

As recently as 1989, 870 of the 1,000 churches in the state were

declining or plateaued, he said.

In an effort to help 15 Chicago churches establish Bible study, worship and leadership frameworks for growth, a team of 15 volunteer Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH consultants from Mississippi began the project in the Chicago-area churches Nov. 13-16.

The project links a consultant with a church for a year to help the church implement its own plans for growth. The project begins with a weekend session in which the consultant assists church leaders in developing goals and plans to reach those goals.

With the Chicago project, partially funded by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the consultants provided the weekend training while the Illinois Baptist Convention and Chicago Metro Baptist Association ASSISTeam (Associational Sunday School Improvement Support Team) members will provide ongoing consultation.

The consultants represent a state with approximately 3 million people while the Chicago metropolitan area has more than three times that population, said Randy Tompkins, Sunday School consultant at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and coordinator for the Chicago project.

Although apprehensive about how their deep-South roots would relate in the nation's third-largest metropolitan area, they found a variety of churches ranging from inner-city to suburban, Tompkins said.

The nine black churches and six predominantly white churches represented different worship experiences than many of the Mississippi Baptists were accustomed to, he said.

"Great Commission BREAKTHROUGH is a time when we as church leaders sit with lay folks in the church, dream dreams and come to some decisions for the church's direction and purpose," Tompkins said.

He pointed out that the consultants did not go to the Chicago churches with a prepared agenda. "We are not going to tell you what to do. We are going to help you decide what to do," Tompkins told church workers at the beginning of the weekend.

And, Tompkins believes the consultants — all staff members in Mississippi churches — returned home with more than souvenirs of Chicago.

"They had an awakening to different approaches to church," Tompkins said. "They have learned to appreciate many things we all take for granted. They saw churches that face challenges even to doing basic ministry."

He said the success of the project creates an openness for similar projects as outlets for mission involvement.

White writes for BSSB.



The Doctors Four, a quartet of Laurel medical professionals which includes John McGraw (second from right), provide a musical break during the recent Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship annual meeting in Memphis. Members of the group include (from left) dentist David Rice, family physician John Hassell, McGraw, and ophthalmologist Eric Lindstrom. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Born into a career Army family stationed at the time of his birth in Munich, Germany, he was later baptized at First Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and attended Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, South Carolina.

He finished school ahead of schedule and at the age of 16 began music studies at North Greenville Junior College, a Baptist institution in South Carolina. After graduation, he came to William Carey College in Hattiesburg in the fall of 1970, with plans to major in history.

All that changed, however, when he heard the testimony of Everley Hayes, the nurse who worked in China with missionary-physician Bill Wallace. Wallace was martyred by the Communist Chinese during the "cultural revolution" in that country in 1951.

"The story of Bill Wallace's life changed my direction. I signed up for 37 hours of math and science in my senior year to prepare for medical school. That was in addition to preaching 33 revival series

Missouri, before coming to Laurel Bone and Joint Clinic in 1989. He and his wife, Ann (a Mississippi College graduate), have two children: Beth Ann, 9, and Jay, 8.

McGraw has big plans for BMDF and for his personal medical witness, and for him there's a simple motivation.

"Dr. Oliver Harper, a former missionary to Indonesia, is credited with bringing thousands of people to the Lord through his medical witness. He believed the medical bedside was the place to witness," he said.

"Medical evangelism gives you the opportunity to share your faith; medical mission trips energize your witness. I believe it does more for the person who goes than it does for the person who receives the help," he added.

Medical and dental personnel interested in more information on the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship can contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS, 39205.



CHICAGO — Sidney Longwood, left, pastor of Rain or Shine Baptist Church in Chicago, talks with Sean Keith, youth Sunday School consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, outside the inner city church. Keith was BREAKTHROUGH consultant for the church. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)



Associate courses offered in Jackson by New Orleans Seminary are much appreciated by people who cannot travel to Louisiana to attend classes on the seminary's campus. Among those involved in the classes at Broadmoor Church on Northside Drive are (back row, from left) Perry Sanderford — instructor,

Jeff Harrison, Ricky Summers, Billy Turnage, Chuck King, Jerry Guess, Greg Clemets, Chester Vaughn — instructor, (front row, from left) James Pearson, Dennis Herrington, Charles Bonner, Paul DeMoney, Charlie Barnes, and James Dodds. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Oprah Winfrey Show boosts New Age course

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — "A Course in Miracles" sounds like a Bible study topic — and it has gotten TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey's attention.

"A Course in Miracles," often referred to as "The Course," is gaining acceptance due in part to a book by Marianne Williamson, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles*. Williamson's appearance on the Oprah Winfrey Show impressed the host so much that she bought a copy of the book for everyone in the studio audience. Williamson now has appeared on the show twice.

Exposure on the Winfrey show sparked "one of the biggest book selling wildfires of 1992," with 750,000 copies of the book sold, according to one book review. The book made the New York Times best-seller list and Williamson appeared on the covers of *People* magazine and *New Age Journal*.

Williamson's book is based on her experiences in "A Course in Miracles," a three-volume, 1,188-page set of books first published in 1975. The set includes a textbook, a workbook with 365 lessons, and a manual. It serves as a New Age self-help study course, said Maurice Smith, associate director of the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department. He warns it is one of the most influential teachings in New Age movements.

Contents of the books were supposedly channeled by a voice claiming to be Jesus Christ, Smith said. Channeling is the New Age term for people receiving direct messages from spiritual entities.

Though the voice claimed to be Jesus, the course "is a radical denial

of every basic biblical teaching," Smith said. The contradiction may not be immediately evident, though, because the material uses words familiar to Christians.

The title is a prime example. To students of the New Age philosophy, miracles are "changes in your understanding of reality," Smith said. The *New Age Encyclopedia* says The Course defines miracles as "shifts in perception which allow people to relinquish illusions." Such illusions include believing in the reality of time and space, sin, pain, death, and illness.

A Course in Miracles teaches that: people can save themselves and heal themselves by changing the way they think; sin is not a transgression against God; sin is allowing anything negative to happen; atonement is refusing to accept evil as real; and God is something each person can become. Consequently people can have or do anything they want, according to A Course in Miracles.

Southern Baptists can best deal with such teachings by equipping people to understand theological errors, Smith said. Yet he warned that churches should not study New Age material itself.

For more information about New Age movements, contact the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department at (404) 898-7468. Other resources for study of New Age movements include the January 1993 study material for adult Discipleship Training produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board and a book titled *Meeting the World: Ministering Cross Culturally* offered by Woman's Missionary Union.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

Texas dentist takes a bite from Donahue sponsor list

By Tim Tune

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — While a prime-time television audience joined celebrities to honor Phil Donahue's 25 years as America's premier talk-show host, a Texas dentist tuned in "just out of curiosity."

Curiosity may have motivated Richard Neill to watch the recent NBC special — but a much more intense interest in The Phil Donahue Show's daily content launched him on a crusade to let America know what is regular fare one of the top-rated syndicated daytime shows in TV markets across the country.

Neill, a Southern Baptist layman, considers many of the topics Donahue discusses unsuitable for 300,000-plus children a day who watch the show, according to the A.C. Nielsen ratings service.

He has circulated a petition in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to have the show moved from its morning time slot to a late-night time when children won't have such wide access to it. But the petition has been gen-

erally ignored by the manager of Dallas television station WFAA, said Neill, who lives in Fort Worth.

When the petition effort failed, Neill began approaching Donahue sponsors asking them to withdraw support. He has persuaded 112 sponsors, including numerous national advertisers, to quit buying time on the program.

Among those who have withdrawn nationwide advertising are Albertson's grocers, Baskin-Robbins ice cream, Circuit City consumer electronics stores, Dole fruit packers, Dr Pepper soft-drink bottlers, Hancock Fabrics, Hillshire Farms meat packers, Jenny Craig weight-loss centers, Keebler snack foods, Kmart department stores, Luzianne tea, Nestle foods, Orkin pest control, Rainbo bakeries, Sara Lee bakeries, S.C. Johnson household products, Star-Kist tuna, and Wendy's hamburgers.

Despite losing some major advertisers, America's original talk-show host seems as strong as ever.

Tune writes for Annuity Board.

Seminary's associate degree program answers need for many Mississippians

By Kim Gruesser

How can a person keep a job in Jackson, stay close to family in Meridian, and earn a degree from New Orleans Seminary? The seminary's extension center in Jackson is the answer for many students.

"Having a Jackson campus is an answer to prayer and, for me, the realization of a lifelong dream. The instructors are excellent, the courses of study are equally outstanding, and the knowledge I've gained has made a significant impact on my ministry," said Dennis Herrington, manager of properties ministry at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton.

Ricky Summers, pastor of Berea Church in Attala Association, said, "Our Jackson center is a great opportunity for Christian training in an atmosphere of Christian love and fellowship. We learn from our professors and each other as we share our experiences in ministry."

Recognizing there are many bivocational ministers and full-

time pastors who cannot move away for theological education, the administration and faculty of the seminary developed programs to fit those lifestyles.

"The school has been a great help to me. It has provided a way to further my education and enriched my ministry, which has been a benefit to the church I serve," said Jerry Guess, pastor of Bethsaida Church in Neshoba Association. He will graduate in December with an associate of divinity degree.

The purpose of the associate degree program at the Jackson center is to provide quality theological education for pastors, church staff, and lay leaders age 25 or older who have a high school diploma or its equivalency. The program is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The next term begins January 25, and will meet each Monday

through May 17 at Broadmoor Church on Northside Drive in Jackson. Courses offered will be *Building Healthy Church Relationships*, taught by Perry Perkins, longtime Mississippi pastor and denominational worker; *Introduction to Preaching*, taught by Julius Thompson, director of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and *Interpreting Acts*, taught by Fuller Saunders, director of the Jackson center.

Qualified students may enroll on the first day of class. Matriculation fee is \$140 for one course, while the cost of two courses in a semester will be \$275.

For more information, contact Fuller Saunders in Jackson at (601) 957-2670, or Jimmy Dukes on the seminary campus toll-free at (800) 662-8701, extension 3590.

Gruesser writes for New Orleans Seminary.

Hollywood would make more money by making better films, critic says

WASHINGTON (ABP) — American movie-makers have "a profound hostility to traditional religion" and don't understand the values of most families, according to Michael Medved.

Medved, co-host of public television's "Sneak Previews," was interviewed Nov. 12 on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition." The interview focused on Medved's controversial new book, *Hollywood vs. America*.

In a dialogue with "Morning Edition" host Bob Edwards, Medved said Hollywood films consistently portray Americans as having no serious religious faith.

"A Martian viewing American society and drawing conclusions based only on the movies and television series he might get by some interplanetary video rent-by-mail

service would conclude that this is a country in which religion was totally irrelevant except for a tiny percentage of the population who are all nuts or crooked," he explained.

While most movies ignore traditional religion, those that specifically attack religion usually do poorly at the box office, Medved noted. "The anti-religious message pictures, one after another they're put out before the public and they flop. Whereas something like 'Sister Act,' which I thought was somewhat innocuous and had a more affectionate, more positive view of the Catholic Church than any film in recent years, ends up going through the roof and doing \$170 million at the box office."

Medved believes much of the Hollywood content that Christians find offensive is not put in just to

make money, as some have charged. The real problem, he said, is that the movie industry is "radically dysfunctional."

"They don't understand America at large," he said. "I don't think they have any knowledge or conception of just how traditional the attitudes of many American families are. This is not an industry that is giving the public what it wants."

For example, Medved said he can't understand who moviemakers think they are pleasing by excessive use of profanity.

"You might say there are a group of people out there who love violence," he noted. "There may be another group that likes graphic sexuality.... But who is it that goes out to a movie and says: 'Oh, come on, let's go. I want to see these stars saying dirty words?'"

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 10, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

PRAYERGRAM

December 10-24, 1992

PRAY for the three Southern Baptist missionary couples who have had to flee from their mission field in Angola, West Africa, following widespread fighting that left over a thousand dead. Mark and Susan Hatfield and their two year-old son, Hatton, had to flee from the country with only the clothes on their backs and what they had in their hands. The other two couples: Don and Carol Minshew and Curtis and Betty Dixon joined the Hatfields in Harare, Zimbabwe. They ask for prayer that they may know when to return to Angola.

PRAY for Wayne and Florence Frederick, Miss. missionaries working in France. Pray for the Lord to give them wisdom to know how to approach the evangelizing of Laval, a city of 50,000. Pray that the Holy Spirit will break ties that have bound people to the wrong concept of Jesus and the Bible for centuries.

PRAY for Samiya Siman, a new woman's leader for the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel. Pray that she will be able to form a Woman's Council representing all villages and towns where there are women's Bible studies and a need to begin new work. Pray that she will be an instrument of peace and wisdom to help heal division that weakens the fellowship of some congregations.

PRAY for Richard and Ruby Ashworth, Mission Service Corps state volunteer coordinators. They are having difficulty getting the word out about volunteerism in Idaho. Pray for the churches in the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention to understand how valuable the volunteer program is and to give recognition to volunteers coming into the convention. Also

pray that they may realize that every member can be a volunteer.

PRAY for the missions program of the River Valley Association of Arizona. Walter is 65 and asks for prayer to know the direction God is leading for their lives and ministry. He also asks for prayer for the churches in the Association to reach the area with the gospel. He says that they are "just scratching the surface."

PRAY for the Home Mission Board of the S.B.C. as it looks for creative ways to reach the nation's cities for Christ. "Churches need to stop building walls around their churches and find ways to reach out to the bicultural and multilingual peoples around them," says Ray Bakke, an American Baptist minister.

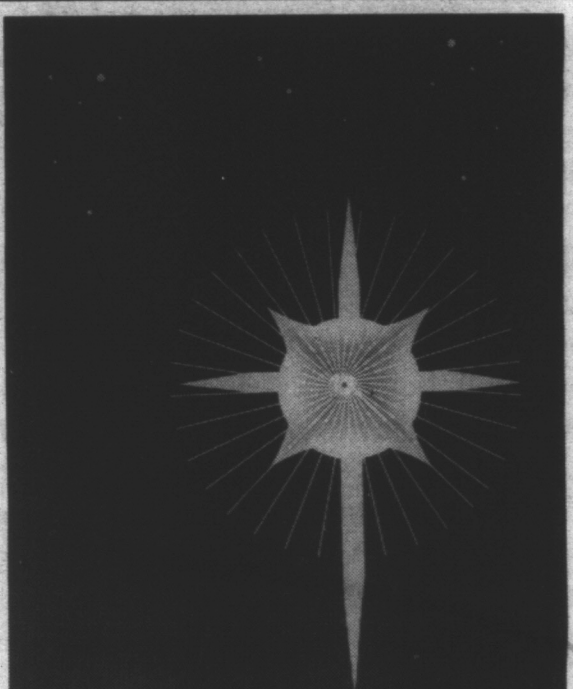
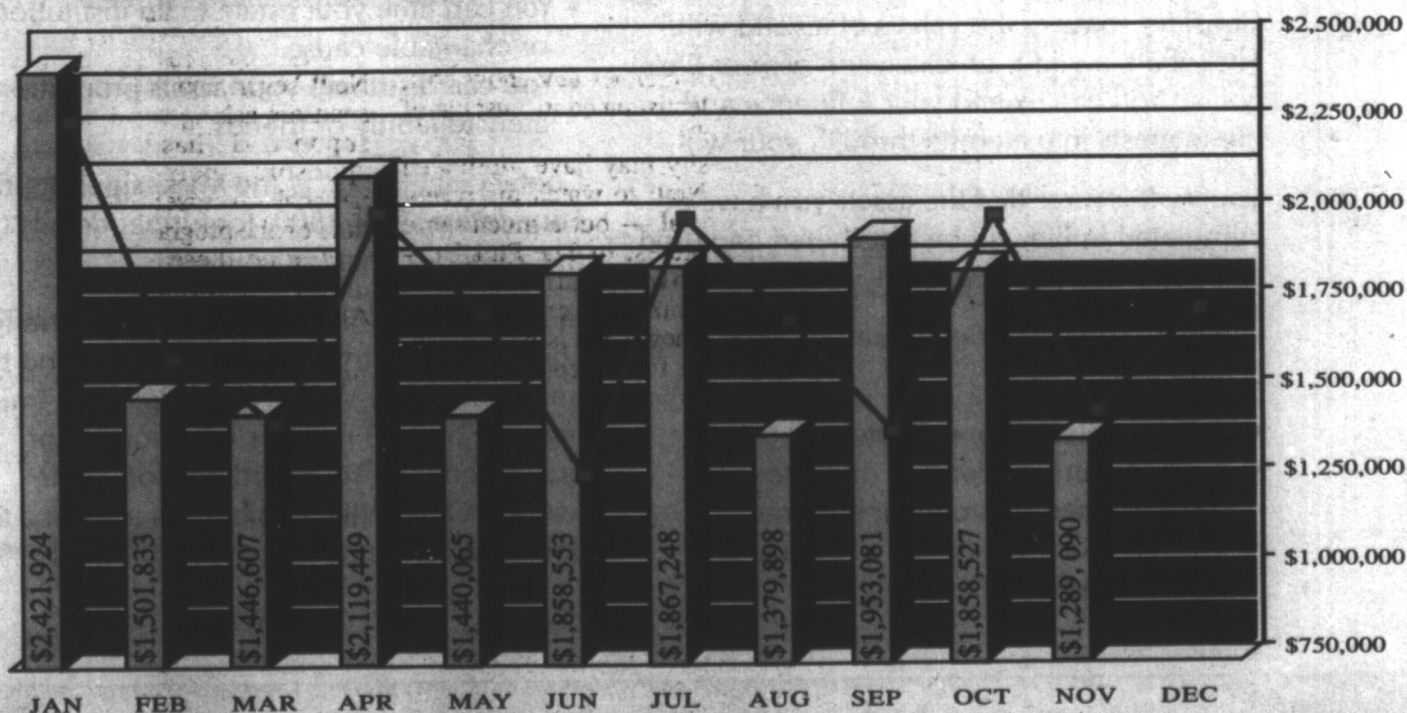
PRAY for the Youth Evangelism Conference at the Miss. College Coliseum to be held December 28, 29. Pray for speakers, conference leaders and students in attendance, that the Holy Spirit will work mightily to bring about life dedications to Christ.

PRAY for the Alaska-Mississippi Partnership to be begun Jan. 1. Ministry, teaching and preaching needs are being received by the Partnership Missions Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, directed by Bill Hardy (968-3800). For example there is a request for the Tanana Valley Baptist Association of Fairbanks for help with Evangelistic efforts as pre-convention activity, July 28-Aug. 2, 1993: preach in mini-revivals and conduct door-to-door survey and witness. For this they need 80 to 100 people.

PRAY for the tornado victims in Mississippi and other states. Thank God for the immediate response of many people to comfort and help rebuild after such a tragedy.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CURRENT GIFTS 1992

■ Receipts
■ Needs
— 1991



*"Jesus,
He will be
great and will
be called the
Son of the
Most
High."*



*Warmest Wishes
for the
Holiday Season
from the
Office of Communication
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board*

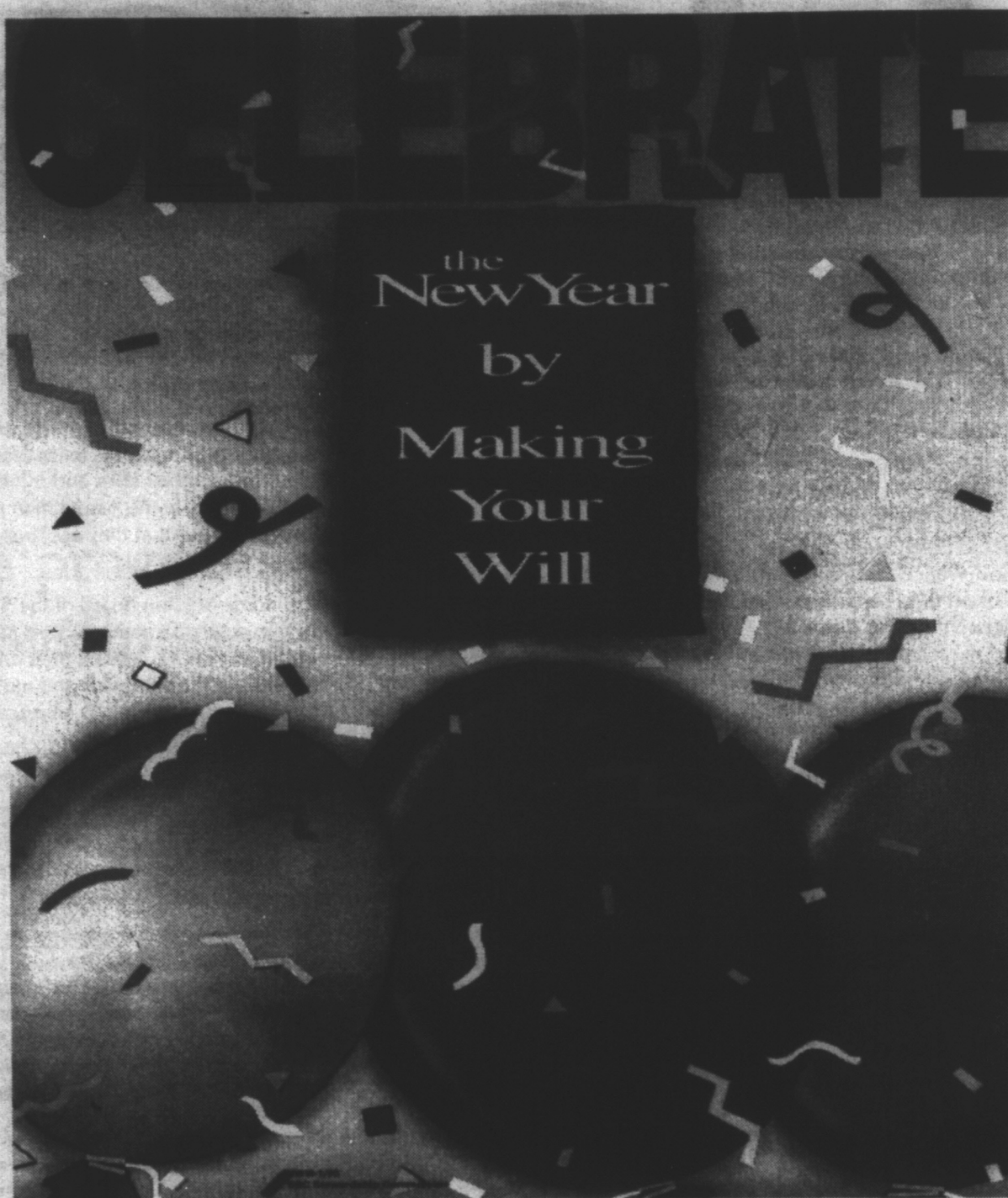
LEARN TO MASTER LIFE

Someone says, "It's a cold, hard, stressful world out there." How true. The challenge of living victoriously for Christ seems too hard and getting harder all the time. The question is are you mastering life, or is life mastering you?

MasterLife: Discipleship Training is a 6-month, indepth discipling process that can lead a person to make Christ Master in one's life and to master life by practicing basic Christian disciplines. You will grow in Christ-likeness as your attitudes and values change and you develop the skills of abiding in Christ, living in the Word, praying in faith, fellowshiping with believers, witnessing to the world and ministering to others. And your church will benefit as you are discipled and trained for leadership and ministry. Records indicate that churches that conduct **MasterLife** groups regularly baptize more people, give more through the cooperative program and average more in Bible Study.

If you would like to become involved in **MasterLife**, the first step is for someone in your church to be trained at a **MasterLife Workshop**. Then that person will be certified to order **MasterLife** materials and to lead a group in your church.

A **MasterLife Workshop** will be conducted at the South Louisville Baptist Church in Louisville, Miss, the two weekends of January 21-23 and 28-30, 1993. Attendance at both weekends is necessary for the complete workshop and for certification. The cost is \$95 for the materials and workshop experience. Housing is to be arranged by each attendee. Write the Discipleship Training Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or call 968-3800 for registration material.



JANUARY IS MAKE YOUR WILL MONTH

Making your will or reviewing your will should be one of your prime priorities for 1993. Wills in existence over three years should be reviewed.

Consider some of the values of a valid will. First of all, a will is an extension of your life's goals. You can extend your influence and life interests into eternity through your will.

Your will insures that the assets you have accumulated in life will be distributed and used as you will them to be used.

What are some additional reasons for having a valid will?

- You can select your executor.
- You can name the person or persons to serve as guardians of your children.
- You can create trusts that will conserve your estate and save taxes.

- You can make special bequests to persons or institutions.
- You can make memorial gifts to a worthy cause to honor a loved one or friend.
- You can tithe your estate to an institution or charitable cause.
- You can distribute your assets proportionately to family or friends.

Contact Hal Fisher, at the **Mississippi Baptist Foundation**, 968-3800, for further details on the aspects of making your will.

In addition, Hal is available to share briefly about the ministry of the **Foundation** and the importance of a Will in a Discipleship Training time or for 5 minutes in a worship or prayer service. Your participation in the **MAKE YOUR WILL** emphasis is a service to your church members.

ZIMBABWE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!

Beginning new churches and evangelism go together in Zimbabwe. New congregations often begin from personal evangelism coupled with evangelistic preaching services.

Sharing the hope of Jesus with the heart of...

ZIMBABWE

Seven projects for church starting in Zimbabwe have been scheduled for 1993. The National pastors and missionaries in Zimbabwe are counting on the Mississippi Partnership to provide the volunteers to help with personal witnessing and preaching.

Teams of ten (10) persons each will be needed. There will be five preachers and five laypersons on each team. The dates are as follows:

February 8 - 25

March 15 - April 1

May 17 - June 3

June 14 - July 1

July 12 - July 29

Sept. 13 - 30

October 11 - 28

Churches and/or Associations may desire to adopt a project and enlist the people to be a part of these new beginnings. The response to the gospel in Zimbabwe is exciting. The people are ready for the harvest of souls.

We have been asked to pray for rain in Zimbabwe. Some rains have come, but they encourage us to continue to pray for much moisture is needed to overcome two years of drought.

Inquiries about volunteering or for any other information should be directed to Bill Hardy at 601/968-3800 or P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

TELLING THE STORY IN ZIMBABWE

Louis Lamar, pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Tupelo, shares with Richard Brogan, Consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board about his recent trip to Zimbabwe, Africa.

Lamar described his experience by saying, "this was a new and rewarding experience for me to conduct a revival where the response to the Gospel message was so overwhelming. He requests that we join him in praying that the Lord will send rain in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Somalia, Ethiopia and other parts of Africa that need it so desperately."



NEW WORK FELLOWSHIP



The 1993 officers for the New Work Fellowship are (left to right): Dottie Williamson, Program Chairman; Peggy Huey, Secretary; Maurice Flowers, President; and Cleophus Rawls, Vice President.

The Fellowship promotes the beginning of new churches, missions and ministries in associations throughout Mississippi. The next meeting of the Fellowship will be held during the Evangelism Conference at Tupelo on January 26. For more information contact Ray Grissett, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS ASSOCIATION

The 1993 Officers for the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Associations are shown with Ray Grissett, Director of the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

(Left to right) Drew Blanton, Vice President; Joe Stovall, President; and Billy J. Jones, State Chaplaincy Coordinator

The Association of Chaplains will have a fellowship luncheon during the Evangelism Conference in Tupelo on January 26, 12 p.m., at West Jackson Street Baptist Church.



*"Helping to Bring Mississippi
and the World to Jesus"*

Marching off the map.

Exploring Your Potential



**HAROLD
IVAN SMITH**

- America's foremost authority on single adults
- Popular speaker on and for single adults
- President of consulting firm dealing with the single adult in the workplace
- Author of 30 books for and about single adults including *WARM REFLECTIONS*, *POSITIVELY SINGLE*, and *JASON LOVES JANE BUT THEY GOT A DIVORCE*
- Producer of video tape series for single adults
- Christian minister, churchman

s t a t e w i d e **SINGLE ADULT RALLY**

February 5, 1993
8:00 P.M.
FBC, Jackson, Miss.



**WANDA
GAYLE GEDDIE**

- Concert Soloist
- Music theater performer
- Fashion model
- Popular spokesmodel for television talk and news shows
- 1984 Miss Mississippi, third alternate Miss America
- Strong Christian testimony

SINGLE ADULT SEMINAR

led by Harold Ivan Smith
10 a.m.--12 noon
Saturday, February 6, 1993

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
JACKSON, MISS.

Sponsored by the
FAMILY MINISTRY SECTION
Discipleship Training Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

SUCCESSFUL SINGLE LIVING

Exciting Video Resources for Single Adults

Five 60 minute tapes featuring relevant topics and outstanding communicators. Excellent for discussion groups or individual viewing. Guidebook gives suggestions for use.

Available for loan from Broadcast Services Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39208 Telephone 968-3800

Singled Out Do you feel discriminated against as an unmarried person? Discover the power of one and how to tap that power to change your life and world for the better. By Harold Ivan Smith, author/speaker/corporate consultant, Kansas City, Missouri. America's foremost authority on single adults today.

Search For Significance Does life sometimes get you down? Learn how to face life in the 1990's head on and come out a winner. By Mamie McCullough, speaker/educator/corporate consultant/developer of "I Can" curriculum, Dallas, Texas.

Stress and Security Do you ever feel like you are living in a pressure cooker? Find help in conquering the stress monster and bringing security to you and yours. By Jim Towns, author/speaker/ university professor/communication specialist, Nacogdoches, Texas.

Faith and Success Is God way out there somewhere or close by? Discover practical faith in God that can lead to successful living. By Ron Churchill, pastor/speaker/former single adult minister, Plant City, Florida.

Building Positive Relationships Are you looking for proven principles to strengthen life's relationships? Find them here and begin putting them into practice today. By Otis and Diege Andrews, marriage and family therapists, Macon, Georgia.

Tapes made available by Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

REGISTRATION -- SINGLE ADULT RALLY/SEMINAR

Just so you will know, I'll/we'll be there for the rally!

Name _____

Address _____

Church (name and city) _____

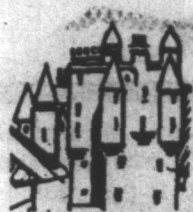
Count on me/us for the Saturday Seminar _____ Number _____
(enclose \$5 per person for the seminar only)

Please send housing information _____

Mail to Family Ministry Section, Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

For additional information call Hbrace Kerr (601) 968-3800, extension 3973.

HOUSE OF



Faces & Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams



Christmas: passport to heaven

I've had my passport stamped in at least 39 countries. Always, shortly before arrival time, by plane, train, bus, or boat, I have filled out an entry form. Enroute to Morocco, I got exact instructions on how to fill out each blank. "They are meticulous here," I was told. "If one blank is wrong, we may be delayed for questioning." On occasion, I've been asked to keep this form for a later re-entry time, as in Hong Kong, China, and back to Hong Kong. I panicked when I thought the paper was lost. I removed everything from my purse and carry-on bag, and then found it between the pages of my passport, just where it should have been.

First place off the plane, I've learned, is the line past the passport checker. Why should I feel terrified of standing before that officer who looks the document over and compares its picture with my face? Always he — or she — is unsmiling, as if this is indeed very serious business. But never has one threatened to send me back home, or to throw me into prison! At reading "Occupation: Journalism," some have asked why I'm going into their country and what I'm planning to write about it.

On one side of Gibraltar's gateway stand green-uniformed members of Spain's *guardia civil*. Beyond them, the passport inspectors look like London bobbies. "Don't take their picture," I was advised, "if you value your camera, for they'll take it away from you if you do."

Next item is to claim your baggage — if it's there — and then greet the customs inspectors. Why should I worry: "Will customs open my bag?" I have nothing to hide. Perhaps I'm afraid my fellow travelers will go off and leave me while I'm looking for my suitcase key, or while the officials are digging past my pajamas and down into the pockets and corners of my bag. Once, as I entered Honduras with a friend, her suitcase was so heavy, they suspected it to be full of weapons and would not believe her denials. They opened it, to reveal the collection of rocks she had picked up in Mexico.

Sometimes it's harder to get past customs in the United States on the way home than it was to enter another country. That is okay, as it assures me they are doing their job well. Returning from Japan, I was wearing a dress my mother had made: a rich-textured, large-flowered print. The material resembled

a Japanese kimono. At Los Angeles customs, one official accused me of having bought an expensive dress in Japan and wearing it home to try to avoid paying import tax on it!

Of course, missionaries deal with border crossings regularly. Hyatt Moore told the story of one missionary who was thoroughly searched. The reason: a narcotics smuggler, recently arrested, had called himself a "missionary."

In another instance, Moore said, when a missionary was asked his occupation, the guard demanded that he quote John 3:16 as proof.

"It occurs to me," wrote Moore, "that all this is a picture of what happens at heaven's gate. That will be our ultimate border crossing, and as Jesus said, not everyone will enter. Only those who know the truth of John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.'"

He gave his only begotten Son. I've been thinking this morning, "That's what Christmas is all about." The first Christmas provided a passport to heaven for anyone who believes he will receive it when he applies for it.

What kind of Bible?

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — How should a shopper select a Bible as a gift from among the 7,000 versions and 15 translations available?

Ben Williams, Bible salesman at the Baptist Book Store in Louisville, Ky., suggests considering these factors:

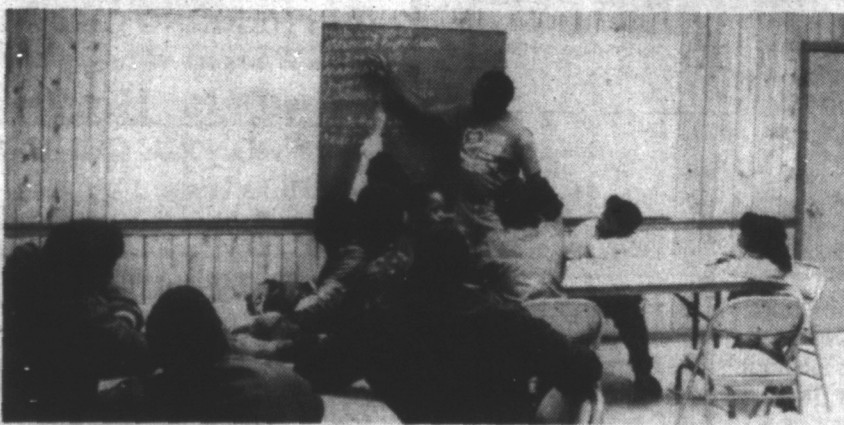
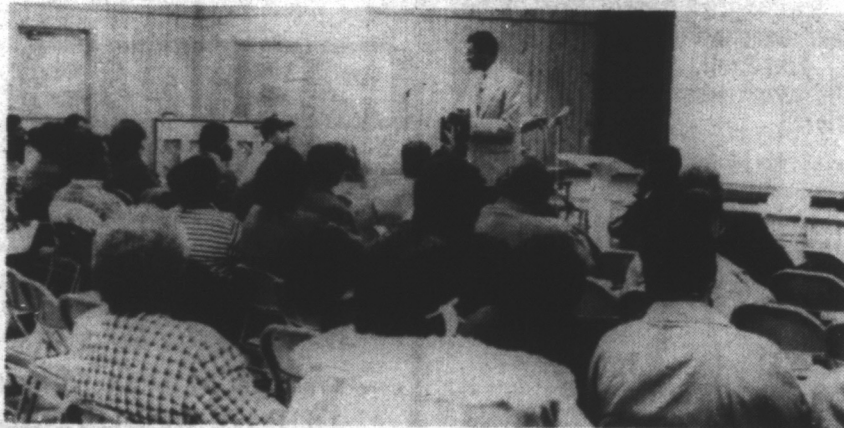
— The person. Different people have different needs in Bibles, he said. A pastor or Sunday School teacher might want added features of a study Bible; a new Christian might want something easier.

— Reading level. A King James study Bible might be appropriate for someone with good reading skills, but a simpler translation might be better for someone struggling with reading.

— Doctrine. Most Bibles with study materials emphasize some doctrinal perspective. Others, such as the Full Life Study Bible for charismatics, are designed specifically for certain faith groups.

— Age. Older adults are more likely to want translations they are familiar with; younger adults might be interested in newer translations.

— Binding. Women generally are more concerned than men about color, Williams noted. Genuine leather is the top-of-the-line choice. Bonded leather also comes from animal skins, but is composed of various skin parts compacted together.



Black church leadership retreat

More than 100 adults, youths, and children from Mississippi Baptist black congregations attended the Pastoral & Church Leadership Retreat Dec. 4-5 at Camp Garaywa. Jay Elgia Wells (top), manager of black church development with the Baptist Sunday School Board, led a three-hour session on "Growth Oriented Sunday School" for adult leadership. Eddie Jones (bottom), pastor of Victory Temple Church in Greenville, worked with youths and children. Among their activities was a letter-writing project to children Jones met on a recent mission trip to Zimbabwe. The meeting, sponsored by the MBCB Cooperative Missions Department, also featured worship services led by Willie Scott, pastor of Providence Church in Marietta, Ga., and Everett Robinson, drama specialist with the BSSB. (Photos by Teresa Dickens)

Thursday, December 10, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Andrew relief efforts ongoing

Hurricane Andrew prompted Charleston churches to form a local, multi-denominational team that spent two days in Lydia, La., helping storm victims get back on their feet. First Church of Charleston, where the idea was conceived, provided the bus that transported the 13 volunteers, along with their construction tools and bedding, on the 450-mile trip. In addition, more than \$3,000 was raised in the Charleston area for the relief effort. Participating churches included First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Church of God in Charleston; and Friendship Baptist Church and Oak Grove United Methodist Church in surrounding Tallahatchie County.

Letters to the editor

Thanks relief team

Editor:

I'm not sure to whom I should address this note, but I want to thank the Mississippi Disaster Relief Team, specifically those men from Calhoun City, for all their help this past week in Brandon. They probably won't remember us because I know they helped so many people in this area, but we'll always remember them, their kindness, and their willingness to help us clean up after the tornado. We feel so fortunate that our personal damage from the storm was minimal, and we feel equally as fortunate to have met these dedicated volunteers.

May God bless.

Pam & Bee Stricklin
Brandon

Desires input

Editor:

The Convention's Order of Business Committee (Program Committee) desires input from Baptists across the state on the length of the convention program. Should the convention close Wednesday noon, afternoon, or evening? Is more time needed for business? Or inspiration?

Comments on the music, choirs, and special features would be appreciated.

Please share your thoughts with us and send to the office of the Executive Director/Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Roy Myers, chairman
Order of Business Comm.

Thanks to messengers

Editor:

I would like to commend the

messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention for deleting the words "fellow Southern Baptists" in referring to our vice president- and president-elect.

As I understand, Southern Baptists are people who accept the inerrancy of the Holy Bible. Anyone who publicly stands against the teachings of God's Holy Word has made their own choice not to be brothers.

God has declared that homosexuality and the taking of innocent life is wrong. All of the laws and the opinions of those who approve of them will never change God's view of them nor of his punishment of the breaking of his laws.

Thank you, messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Thank you to all the pastors who teach the truth of God's Holy Word.

Brenda Shea
Tiptonville

Florida seeks vols

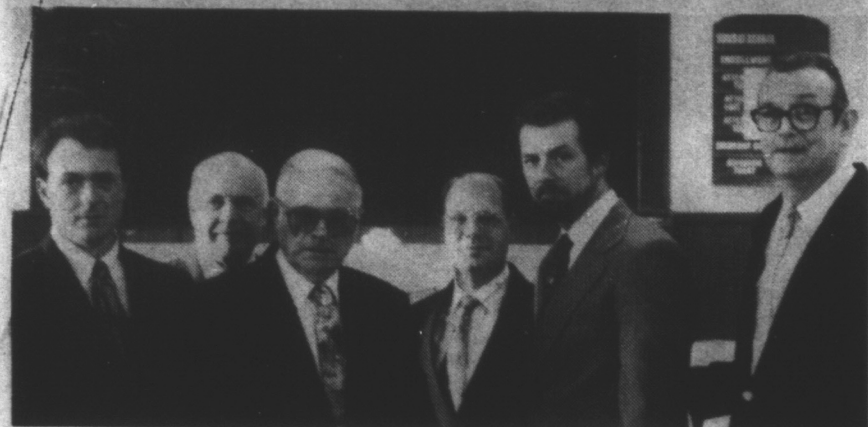
Editor:

Many of our new Florida churches that were started recently, as well as areas that have been targeted for new church starts, are in need of assistance from churches in Mississippi.

Needs include youth groups for spring break or summer mission trip to conduct Backyard Bible Clubs and survey work; and pastors, choirs, or musical groups to conduct three- or four-day evangelistic crusades in one of these communities. Each church would be responsible for its own travel, housing, and meals expense.

Interested individuals or churches should contact J.C. Mitchell, executive director, Pembroke Foundation, P.O. Box 2293, Winter Park, FL 32790-2293; phone (407) 740-7781.

Names in the News



John Glen Caldwell and James Ricky Harris were ordained as deacons at Hardy Church, Grenada County, on Oct. 15. Pictured, left to right, are John Glen Caldwell; Truman Scarborough, First Church, Coffeeville; John H. Caldwell Jr., father of John Glen and deacon for 50 years; Courtney Selvy, pastor of Hardy Church; James Ricky Harris; and Billy Lee Harris, father of Ricky and deacon for 29 years.

Larry Camp of Forest was ordained into the ministry on Nov. 15 at Two-Mile Church, Morton, where he serves as interim pastor.



Caldwell

Gilbert Estle Simpson was ordained as a deacon on Oct. 4 at First Church, Coffeeville. Truman D. Scarborough is pastor.

New Bethlehem Church, Magee, ordained Gary Shows, Paul Craft, and Mike Sellers as new deacons on Nov. 15. On program were James Pearson, pastor, and Jimmy Sellers, father of Mike Sellers.

Thomas Clark Bryan has been chosen as the new president of Truett-McConnell College in

PARKS

From page 3

church renowned for its support of Baptist missions, said Parks' decision is an indication God "can take our mess and make it his miracle."

Loring, who serves on the Fellowship committee that hired Parks, described the 13-year SBC controversy as "our denominational mess" and wondered "how God could be in this at all."

"While some will interpret this action as divisive and disloyal, Dr. Parks is simply staying 'faithful to the heavenly vision' that has been expressed in his lifelong service to biblical missions expressed in a Baptist context."

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press; Mark Wingfield, news director of Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER; and Jack Brymer, editor, Florida BAPTIST WITNESS, contributed to this story.

Cleveland, Ga. He holds master of science and doctor of education degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. Bryan will succeed H. M. Fulbright, president since 1986 who is retiring at the end of the year.

DALLAS (BP) — Dan Martin, former news editor of Baptist Press, unanimously was elected executive director of Texans Who Care at the annual board meeting of the statewide anti-gambling coalition in Dallas. Martin, 54, succeeds longtime anti-gambling activist Sue Cox who resigned as executive director of Texans Who Care to become director of the nonprofit Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling. Martin will assume the executive post for the Austin-based, non-partisan organization effective Jan. 1, 1993.



L. Graham Smith (left), director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has been honored by the Mississippi College Department of Music as its Distinguished Alumnus for 1992. Presenting the award is Richard Joiner, head of the department and professor of music. Smith, a Clinton resident, is a 1961 MC graduate.

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Morris Chapman, president of SBC Executive Committee, recently spoke at the Attala Association. A Kosciusko native, Chapman gave a Whippet cheer (high school athletic teams), at the beginning of his address. He spoke to the association on the Second Coming of Christ. There were 24 of the 31 churches represented.



Southside Church, Greenville, held a reception honoring its pastor, Earl Ezell, and his wife on their 10th anniversary of service to the church.

Staff Changes

Carey Springs Church, Pontotoc, has called **Chuck Shumaker** as pastor, effective July 5. He was previously a member of Friendship Church, Pontotoc, where he was ordained July 19, 1992.

Shumaker

First Church, Lauderdale, has called **Buddy Ramey** as minister of music, effective Nov. 22. He is a native of Meridian and received his education at the University of Southern Mississippi. His previous place of service was Greens Creek Church in Petal.

Gerald Thompson has resigned the Concord Church, Tippah Association, as minister of music. He accepted the call as minister of music and youth at Oak Hill Church, Prentiss Association, effective Dec. 2. Dan Mobley is pastor.

Edwards Church, Hinds-Madison Association, called **Eric Hambrick** of Jackson as minister of music, effective Sept. 6. He received a degree from University of Southern Mississippi and attended Mississippi College.

Robert H. Rogers of Hattiesburg has accepted the call as bivocational pastor of Clear Creek Church, Lumberton. He

previously served Memorial Church, Perry Association, and several other Mississippi churches. He served as an Army Chaplain, both on active duty and in reserve.

Vance Marberry retired Nov. 15. He served 40 years in the pastorate. The past 20 years he served at Immanuel Church, Olive Branch. He is now pastor emeritus of Immanuel Church.

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, called **Jimmy Miller** of Pascagoula as minister of youth, effective Nov. 15. His previous place of service was Wade Church, Pascagoula.

Agricola Church, Agricola, called **M. Joseph Howard** as minister of music Aug. 30. Howard is

bi-vocational, and is also employed at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Inc. as a lead computer system analyst. He has served in various Jackson County churches, and has been involved in music ministry for 22 years.

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Just for the Record



Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, recently dedicated its new educational building. Open House was held Nov. 1, celebrating the completion of the 16,000 square-foot facility. The church also has raised \$1 million through a Together We Build campaign. Pictured above are the members of the building committee. They are, left to right: front row, Carolyn Salley, Nauvaree Medlin, Faye Martin, Linda Boswell; second row, Harold Massey, Bob McRae, Barbara Hull, Buddy Coleman, Billy Gunn, and Lamar McDonald. Not pictured are Willie Greer and Crystal Johnson. James A. Ruffin is pastor.

Alta Woods Church, Jackson, will present "That Night," a Christmas pageant, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. Bob Jones, minister of music, promises a "fresh and contemporary telling of an old story." Frank H. Thomas Jr. is pastor.

Joyful Bells, handbell choir of **Parkway Church, Jackson**, will perform a Christmas program on Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant Church near West. The 12-member choir is directed by Carol Yates Sparkman, pianist at Parkway Church.

The Harmontown Church, Lafayette Association, gives 22.5% of its budget to missions. Recently the Brotherhood raised \$1,147.61 for hurricane victims. This was given through the Brotherhood Commission. "God just continues to bless as we are faithful in our giving" said Paul Crawford, Harmontown member. Don Stanfill is director of missions for Lafayette Association and Barry Littlefield is pastor of Harmontown.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will dedicate its new building Dec. 13. The four-year-old church has 108 members. Johnny Presley, former staff member of Byram Church, now a foreign missionary, will be the guest speaker. Jack Nazary, former pastor of West Jackson Church, will also participate; James Netherland will lead music. A meal will be served at noon.

Mississippi State Hospital, Whitfield, needs Christmas gifts for its patients. For a list of gift suggestions, call or write Volunteer Services, MSH, Box 75, Whitfield, MS 39193, (601) 939-1221, ext. 205.

First Church, Ridgeland, will present its third annual "Living Christmas Tree" featuring the sanctuary choir, orchestra, and drama group on Dec. 11, 12, and 13 at 7 p.m.

David and the Giants will be in concert at the Louisville coliseum, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Also appearing are **The Edge of Jackson** and **Anne Davis**, student at Mississippi State University. The concert is presented by John Staszefski, evangelist. For more information, call (601) 547-6516.

Elmer Towns of the Church Growth Institute, Lynchburg, Va., will lead a seminar entitled, "Spiritual Factors of Church Growth," Jan. 5 at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Cost is \$59, and does not include lunch. For more information, call 1-800-553-4769.

Revival Dates

Emmanuel Church, Pearl: Dec. 11-13; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Quinton Mills, evangelist; Tommy Anderson, pastor.



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—Dr. Dean Register, Temple Bapt. Church, Hattiesburg, MS
Write or call for schedule.



Cedar Grove Church, Marlon Association, recently held a GA/Acteen recognition service. Those girls recognized are pictured, left to right: Sarah Stringer, Kayla Breland, Amanda Vasilion, Brandi Fortenberry, Ashley Fortenberry, Sarah Watts, Avery Brumfield, Linda Norton, Wendi Bourne, Jeni Beard, Renee Ratliff, and Amanda Graves, GAs; Joni Beard and Rebecca Arthur, Acteens. David Green is pastor.



Yellow Creek Church, Burrisville, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new building in the North Crossroads Community. The structure will replace the building destroyed by fire Sept. 12, 1991. Anticipated completion date is spring of 1993. Pictured above, left to right, are members of the building committee: Mark Carley; Judy Nabors; Noonan Floyd; J.W. Bonds; Ellett Allen; chairman; Roger Dorsett, associational missions director; and Stanley Magill, pastor.

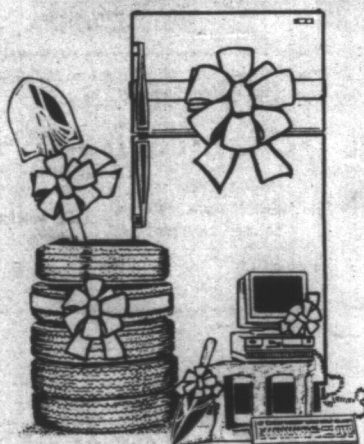


Third and fourth grade Vacation Bible School students (shown above) at **Strong Hope Church, Wesson**, crafted pieces of the "armor of God," according to interpretations of the focus of their week's lessons. Church members recently gave a follow-up party for Pascagoula-area children who participated in a week of Backyard Bible School. Youths and adults took token love gifts to the Jackson County children, along with lessons of reminder from the summer mission effort.



Fair Ridge Church, Stringer, recently held a groundbreaking ceremony for a new church building. Pictured above are congregation members and building committee members Spurgeon Parker, Faresh Roy Sims, Robert Bankston, Billie Jenkins, and Dixie Graham. Bobby Jones is pastor.

This Christmas, give a gift of hope.



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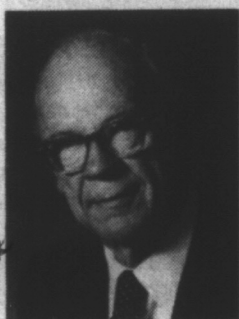
too, that more Southern Baptists will respond to God's call to foreign missions.

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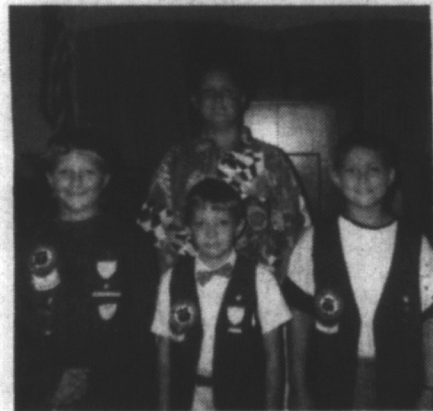
Suzannah White (left) and Emily Dossett, (right) of First Church, Jackson, received a Mississippi Citation from Jan Cossitt, state Acteen consultant with the WMU of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. White served as Acteen Top Teen while in high school and is presently a freshman at Baylor University. Dossett was National Acteen panelist while in high school and is presently a freshman at Stanford University.



Midway Church, Jackson, recently held a GA recognition service under the theme, "Climb Every Mountain." Pictured, left to right, are participants: Coralee Gallaher, GA leader, Candice Atwood, Sara Henry, Katrina Tidwell, Melisa Bounds, Elise Tidwell, Nikki Blissett, Beverly Brewer, and Anna McLaurin. David Wilkinson is pastor.



Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Baptist Student Union Council picked cotton for summer missions. BSU director Roy Smith planted two rows of cotton in his side yard; when the cotton was picked, each pound would glean a \$3 donation to summer missions. Fifteen pounds of cotton were picked, earning \$45 for summer missions by the Co-Lin BSU. Pictured, left to right, are Jennifer McWilliams, Paige Grant, Chad Wigington, Malinda Sistrunk, and Vic Granger. Not pictured is Shann Wyland.



Bethel Church, Hazlehurst, recently held an RA recognition service. Those boys receiving badges are shown, left to right: back row, Jason Templeton; front row, Timothy Taylor, Chris Nixon, and Barrett Templeton. Glen Mullins is pastor.

Laurel services held for Fred Chancellor

Services were held Dec. 7 at First Church, Laurel, for former Mississippi Baptist pastor Fred Chancellor, 58. He died from a gunshot wound received in a weekend hunting accident.

Pastor and interim pastor for several churches in Jasper, Smith, and Jones counties, Chancellor was vice president of Colonial Chapel and Colonial Guaranty Life Insurance Company at the time of his death. He also was a trustee at William Carey College and chairman of the steering committee for a Jones County area-wide crusade in May 1993.

He is survived by his wife Carol, four children, 11 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Victor Clayton, former pastor, dies in Fulton

Victor B. Clayton, 83, died Nov. 7 in Fulton. Services were held at Trinity Church, Fulton. He was a



Clayton

minister for 54 years, preaching in Itawamba County and Franklin County, Ala. Clayton was a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for six years, moderator for the Itawamba Association from 1954-1964, and a lifetime member of the BSU board.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl; four daughters, Sara Rea of Alabama, Jo Bostick of Brandon, Betty Coleman of Fulton, and Sue Massey of Georgia.

Church planners say two acres of parking space is needed for every 300 parishioners.

COMMITTEE

From page 3

necessary actions such as employ personnel, sign contracts, lease facilities, and effect needed repairs to protect and preserve the facilities of the Clarke College property until such time as a disposition of the property is determined by the Convention Board." Funds will come from the Board Operating Fund for the present time.

Several former employees still live on campus, security needs to be preserved, equipment needs to be maintained, and insurance needs to remain in force.

The Executive Committee approved two new board members: Bill Patten of Vicksburg, replacing Mrs. Lou Callum, and Randy Mobley of Nesbit, replacing Ormand Taylor.

A new tractor costing \$10,449.89,

was approved for Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. And the committee made several minor policy changes. They gave the nod to send a department name change to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

The Discipleship Training Department requested a name change to become the "Discipleship Training and Family Ministry Department" in keeping with Sunday School Board changes.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.

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Uniform

God answers prayers



By Margaret Rogers
Luke 1:1-25

Luke was the only Gentile writer of the Bible. He was recognized as a highly educated man of culture and scientific knowledge, a physician by profession. He was a leader in the Philippian church for approximately six years. His name is mentioned only three times in the New Testament. He is called the "beloved physician" in the letter to the Colossians; Paul's "fellow worker" in the letter to Philemon; and in 2 Timothy, it is indicated that Luke was with Paul in the dark hours of his approaching martyrdom.

It is thought that Luke wrote the gospel about the year A.D. 60 while Paul was in prison in Caesarea. Luke also wrote the book of Acts during Paul's imprisonment in Rome. Luke's two-year sojourn in Caesarea afforded him the opportunity to get firsthand accurate information from original companions of Jesus. Luke's gospel is one of the synoptic (which means "seeing the whole together at a glance") gospels. So multi-faceted is the glory of Christ's person, so far-reaching are the results of his finished redemption, that one gospel account could not have portrayed the divine-human Person. Luke's special emphasis in his gospel was the humanity of Jesus. Luke described his method of research and writing in the first four verses of his book. He indicated his purpose was to write the true and complete story of Jesus's life. He wrote the fullest and most orderly story, and gave the remarkable account of the birth of the man who was to arouse the nation and present Jesus.

The childlessness of Zacharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1:5-7). Luke described the two who were to become the parents of the Messiah's forerunner. They were devout, obedient, and blameless. Zacharias and Elisabeth lived in the days of Herod, the king who was a deputy for the Romans in the province of Judea. Zacharias' name meant "God remembered" and Elisabeth's name meant "God's oath." Zacharias was a priest. God had made a covenant with Aaron and his descendants who would be the priests of Israel. The scripture described Zacharias as being of the course of Abia. In the time of David's reign, he had divided the Aaronic priests into 24 courses so that all of the duties of the temple could be performed. The eighth of the courses was Abia who was descended from Aaron's oldest son. Elisabeth was also a descendant of Aaron since the priests were careful to marry within their own families. This couple had no children because Elisabeth was barren.

The angel's message and John's mission (vv. 8-17). When Zacharias was serving his time in the temple, an angel appeared to him and told him that his prayers were answered. Elisabeth would bear a son who would be a Nazarite. In Old Testament times, God had set aside certain young men as Nazarites who took vows of purity of life and no strong drink. The vow these young men took to avoid strong drink is an argument for total abstinence by Christians today since alcohol is a major social problem.

The son to be born to Zacharias and Elisabeth was to be a forerunner of the Messiah. He would be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth. Through many centuries, God had been preparing Israel for the salvation that was to be brought by the Messiah. This son's word was to get people ready for the actual appearance of this promised Messiah. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, this son would accomplish his mission by turning the children of Israel to their God and to each other. Because Zacharias doubted the words of the angel, he was stricken dumb and could not speak until the son was born. He had written that his name was to be John, which means "God is gracious." Zacharias left the temple, returned to his family, and his wife conceived. Elisabeth hid herself for five months and gave her reason for the retirement as devotion and praise, "For thus hath the Lord dealt with me; he hath taken away my reproach among men." After the baby was born, Zacharias wrote that the child's name would be John, his lips were loosened, and he praised God.

The angel's first message to Zacharias was "fear not," then the angel announced that the prayers they had often made would now receive an answer in the birth of their remarkable son. This experience should be a source of assurance to believers that God does hear and answer prayers.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

Bible Book

Our obligations in society



By R. David Raddin
Romans 13:1-14

The Jews were expelled from Rome in A.D. 49 or 50 by the Roman emperor Claudius. The historian Seutonius attributes the banishment to agitators of one called "Chrestus," probably a misnomer for Christ. Claudius died in A.D. 54; his successor, Nero, relaxed the ban. As many Jews returned to Rome, Paul writes to the Roman Christians of their civic responsibilities. J.W. MacGorman in his commentary on this passage points to the words of Marx: "What we have here is not a dogmatic treatise on the government and the state, but a demand for loyal conduct to avoid a fresh edict." This is the only passage of its kind in Paul's letters.

Obligation to the state (13:1-17). Paul writes that Christians must be subject "to the governing authorities" (v. 1). He goes on in verse 1 to say that, "there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." Paul does not say that the rulers always act within the will of God. He does say that government has been instituted by God. "Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves" (v. 2).

Verses 3-5 describe the Christian's function within the state. MacGorman says, "Rulers maintain order in society by rewarding good conduct and punishing wrongdoing (13:3). In wielding the sword (the power of life and death), rulers are God's servants who execute his wrath upon the wrongdoers (13:4). Not only fear of punishment but also the demands of conscience require submission to them (13:5)" (Romans: Everyman's Gospel, pp. 135-136).

In verses 6 and 7, Paul discusses the Christian's obligation to pay taxes and to give to everyone what is owed. "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (vv. 6, 7).

Obligation of love (13:8-10). "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law" (v. 8). Paul has been dealing with the Christian's responsibility to the state. Now he states the Christian's responsibility to everyone: love. He writes that "whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (v. 9). In verse 10 we read that "love is the fulfillment of the law".

Our responsibility as Christians living within society is to show through our lives the love of God. In a world filled with so much hate, the Christian's responsibility is to live out the fact that "love does no harm to its neighbor" (v. 10). May the Lord show us daily how to love one another.

Urgency motivated by the day of Christ (13:11-14). Paul writes out of his expectancy of the Lord's return. He exhorts the believers to "wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (v. 11). Knowing that Christ will return, "let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (v. 12). May we put aside our sinful ways and live in the ways of God.

Jesus is coming again! As we look forward to his coming, may we live in such a way as to lead others to be prepared for that day. May we heed the words: "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature" (v. 14).

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.



Life and Work

Promising a Savior



By Milton Burd
Isaiah 59:1-2, 9-11, 15b-16, 20-21

The unit for the remainder of December is based on selected passages from the Old and New Testaments that describe the coming of the Savior. Isaiah 59 is part of a larger section (Chapters 56-66) that describes the return of the Jews from the Babylonian exile and their disappointment in God's response. As the people of Israel returned from exile, they expected God to restore the temple and to return them to a nation of power and wealth. When it didn't happen, they became impatient and began to question his love and his ability to help them. Why should they serve a God who did not respond? Isaiah 59 explains why God did not respond as they desired.

The cause of separation (vv. 1-2). Sin is reason for separation from God. It is not a question of God's inability to act. "God's arm is not too short to save nor his ear too dull to hear," Isaiah said to those who were quick to complain. Doubt and impatience characterized Israel and her relationship with God. During the wilderness journey from Egypt the people of Israel became impatient with God numerous times. Their rebellious and sinful attitude strained their relationship with God. They paid a price for this behavior. Throughout their history, Israel did not fulfill their part of the covenant relationship with God. Their sins destroyed their fellowship and closeness with God. In Isaiah 65:2, the Lord says, "I have always been ready to welcome my people, who stubbornly do what is wrong and go their own way." Sin is the cause of man's separation from God. God is always ready to respond to man when he turns from sin.

The consequences of sin (vv. 9-11). Verses 3-8 describe the actual sins of the people. Sins such as lying, violence, and murder are mentioned. But in verses 9-11 the people of Israel began to wake up. They became aware of the darkness in their lives. They found no justice nor righteousness; their spiritual blindness kept them in darkness. They were denied God's blessings, deliverance, and favor. This is a vivid description of what life was apart from God. The future always portrays a dark picture without God. Sin leads to death (Romans 3:23).

But to their credit, the people of Israel realized their spiritual condition. They had experienced the darkness (as the blind groping along in the brightest sun); an emptiness (as the stomach of a growling bear); and a mourning spirit. Justice was nowhere to be found and deliverance seemed far away. We have heard the saying, "When you are flat on your back, the only way to look is up." Sin may separate a person from God, but confession can restore a relationship with God. Israel began to look to God and seek restoration of a right relationship with him. Verses 12-15a record the confession of the people. They wanted to make things right with God.

The concern of the Savior (vv. 15b-16). God responded to sin with a definite determination to intervene as Redeemer. He was disappointed that there was no justice among the people and there was no one to intervene. God was pained by the spiritual condition of Israel. Therefore, his righteousness is always at work to provide redemption for sinners. God personally became involved on behalf of his people. His desire is for everyone to be redeemed. That opportunity is provided through Jesus. "He became flesh and dwelt among us."

The covenant of salvation (vv. 20-21). Redemption from sin comes to those who repent. "The Redeemer will come to Zion." This is a promise of the coming Messiah. He will save all who repent of their sins. This is a promise from God upon which we can rely. We cannot save ourselves. It took God's direct intervention to provide salvation for Israel and for us. God's promise was fulfilled at the right time in history. The Redeemer, God's Messiah, came in the form of a baby named Jesus.

Isaiah 9:6 says: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

During this advent season we celebrate God's greatest gift — the coming of Jesus, our Savior, Redeemer. What a great opportunity for thanksgiving!

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

capsules

OCTOBER GIFTS TO FELLOWSHIP APPROACH ALL-TIME HIGH: ATLANTA (ABP) — Contributions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship reached \$653,764 in October, the second highest monthly total ever. The October total, second only to January's \$732,650, was a jump of 32% from the previous month and 55% higher than October of 1991. Contributions had been hovering around \$500,000 since June. The trend of contributors to designate more and more money to the Fellowship's own ministries and projects continued in October. Last year about three-fourths of the money contributed through the Fellowship was designated for traditional Southern Baptist causes, such as state conventions and the agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. That portion has dropped to about 60% this year. In October 44% of Fellowship contributions were passed on to SBC causes. An additional 16% was designated for state-level Baptist causes.

SHEVARDNADZE REPORTS HIS BAPTISM: TBILISI, Georgia — Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader and former Soviet foreign minister, announced Nov. 23 he has been born again — this time as a Christian. Shevardnadze, 60, told Georgian state radio that he was baptized recently at a Georgian Orthodox cathedral and that his new Christian name was Georgy although he would continue to use the name Eduard for most purposes. For more than two decades, Shevardnadze was a professed atheist. He headed Georgia's Communist Party before 1985, when former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and brought him to Moscow as foreign minister. — from *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson

BAPTIST WORK GROWING IN FORMER SOVIET UNION: MOSCOW (BP) — Baptist work in the former Soviet Union continues to grow in spite of economic and social upheaval and lack of resources, according to reports presented during the second Congress of the Union of Evangelical Christians Baptists, Nov. 8-14, in Moscow. In the Ukraine, some 100 new churches have been opened since the congress last met in 1990, said Jakob Dukhonchenko, president of the Ukraine Baptist Union. Some 100 Ukrainian missionaries are preaching the gospel and starting new churches in the republic, Dukhonchenko reported. He also reported Ukrainian Baptists have purchased one hectare of land (approximately two and a half acres) to build a Bible school. Prison ministry is also growing, Dukhonchenko said, and Ukrainian Baptists now plan to build a rehabilitation center. In Russia, 216 new churches have been established, reported Vasily Logvinenko, president of the Russian Baptist Union. Logvinenko listed: 31 missionaries trained in the last six months and sent with other believers to organize churches; a growing prison ministry; a radio program twice a week; TV evangelism for unbelievers; 170 students in correspondence courses; and organized women's, children's, and youth work. Boris Serin, superintendent of Baptist churches in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tadzhikistan, spoke of the difficulties Baptists face in these heavily Muslim areas: "...Nevertheless, believers continue to serve." Four new churches have been opened in the Asian region and there is a growing prison ministry with several prisoners on death row waiting to be baptized, Serin said.

MISSIONARY TONITA TACKETT DIES OF CANCER AT AGE 45: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Tonita Tackett, 45, died Nov. 22 in Louisville, Ky., after battling cancer for more than five years. Appointed a missionary in 1979, Tackett was a secretary in the Southern Baptist mission office in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1980 to 1991. She also taught secretarial science at a local women's training center and was an active member of Tijuca Baptist Church in Rio. "She was a precious young woman who was well loved among the Brazilian people," said Ann Fallaw, the Foreign Mission Board's associate area director for Brazil and the Caribbean. "She was a right arm for so many of the missionaries. She took on much of the mission business, which freed other missionaries to do their work. She played an important role." A native of Bellefontaine, Ohio, she earned a bachelor of arts degree from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. She attended Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in Louisville.

SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIFTS DOWN SLIGHTLY, DESIGNATED UP: NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program receipts for November were 3.84% below the same month a year ago but designated gifts increased 3.98% over the previous year, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. November 1992 CP receipts totaled \$11,734,974 compared to November 1991 of \$12,204,115, according to Chapman. However, the November 1992 total is above the 1992-93 SBC monthly basic operating budget requirement of \$11,683,366. The 1992-93 SBC Cooperative Program allocation budget is \$140,200,395. For the two months of the SBC fiscal year, October and November, the total CP gifts are \$22,565,020 compared to the same two months of the 1991-92 fiscal year of \$22,897,708, or a 1.45% decrease. Continuing a trend, designated gifts for November 1992 reached \$2,384,109 compared to November 1991 of \$2,292,921. The year-to-date totals for the fiscal year are \$4,484,868 compared to last year of \$3,772,442, an 18.89% percent increase.

Women's coalition campaign: "Enough!" sexual violence

By Christine Lehmann

WASHINGTON (BP) — A coalition of women from diverse ideological backgrounds announced Nov. 19 its "Enough is Enough!" national campaign to eliminate illegal, hard-core, and child pornography, to reduce sexual violence and to prevent men, women, and children from becoming its victims.

"We need to educate America about the type of pervasive illegal pornographic materials that are available today, and that it is a public health and safety issue," said campaign director Dee Jepsen. Studies have shown that sexual violence is increasing in America and that pornography shapes destructive attitudes toward women and children and contributes to rape and child molestation.

"One out of three American girls can expect to be sexually molested by age 18, every 46 seconds at least one woman is reported being raped and there are more outlets for hard-core pornography than McDonald's restaurants in this country. It is high time that American women say enough is enough!" Jepsen said.

Pornography often becomes addictive and is used as a sex instruction manual. Julie Schondel, a victim of incest and child abuse said, "My stepfather and mother used illegal and child pornography to educate me starting when I was 5, for 10 years. I am here today to say that this is wrong, and I am fighting back with the help of campaigns to say enough is enough!" she told reporters.

Another victim, Dianne, recounted how her 3-year-old daughter was raped and sexually abused by

a 12-year-old boy in her small community after he was exposed to pornographic materials at a youth camp. "Pornography is not a victimless crime. My family has been shattered by this experience, but so has the family of this young man who is also a victim. Something is terribly wrong in this country when we protect the rights of a handful of men to make billions of dollars from pornography at the expense of women and children," she said.

Pornography is estimated to be an \$8-10 billion-a-year industry and the third-highest profit industry in organized crime after narcotics and gambling, according to the FBI.

"But our primary focus is on strengthening and enforcing state laws," said Jan LaRue, attorney for the National Law Center for Children and Families and campaign advisor. "Our center assists law enforcement officers in sex offense cases and trains them to look for pornography at the scene. One of the obstacles we face is that many prosecutors don't real-

ize the link between pornography and sexual crimes including rape.

"But we point to the Oklahoma City case which saw a 26% decrease in rape when the obscenity laws were enforced for a six-year period, shutting down 150 pornography outlets," she said.

This campaign has been endorsed by first lady-elect Hillary Clinton and first lady Barbara Bush. Its national committee of support includes Mary O. Ross, president of the women's department of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., and women representing Presbyterian and United Methodist denominations.

The coalition also offers counseling referrals to both those who are addicted to pornography and to victims of sexual abuse. A "What Can One Woman Do?" action manual and other educational resources are available from the "Enough is Enough!" campaign headquarters at P.O. Box 888, Fairfax, VA 22030, (703) 278-8843.

Lehmann is a free-lance writer in the Washington area.

Hobbs on CBF: "Get in or get out"

By R. Albert Mohler Jr.

ATLANTA (BP) — Herschel H. Hobbs, oft-quoted former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, was "taking a realistic look" when he called for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to separate itself from the SBC as a matter of integrity.

"When you take their organization in place," Hobbs said, "they have a denomination in embryo.

All they need to do is vote 'We are a denomination.'" Hobbs made his remarks in an interview with *The Christian Index*, newjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

A member of the SBC Peace Committee, Hobbs said, "I'm not on either side" of the SBC controversy but remains deeply committed to the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I wish they would either get in or get out and let us get on with the work," Hobbs stated. The SBC, he said, should "throw its shoulders to the wheel." As for the CBF, "I don't want it, but we do well to face reality and get together or go our separate ways."

Mohler is editor, *Georgia Christian Index*.



Coast plans new seamen's center

Woong Ho Song, Dean Register, James Gilbert, Charles Corey, and Robert Burns (left to right) stand in front of the San Carlos Crystal, which carries bananas from Central America to the Port of Gulfport. A group of pastors, Gulf Coast associational staff members, and others recently toured the ship in view of plans for a new center to reach seamen and truckers who transport goods in and out of the port. Corey is director of the Center for International Seamen and Truckers. Burns is director of public relations for the Port of Gulfport. Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg.

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